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WOMAN'S EXCHANGE CALENDAR FOR 1901

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HAWAII PAIR, by P. H. Dodge, and other articles suitable for Christmas.

A BLASTER ARRESTED

He Endangered Lives of Hundreds.

CRIMINAL CARELESSNESS

Contractor Mallet's Giant Powder at Young Building Lot D'd Much Damage.

Shortly after 10 o'clock yesterday forenoon a terrific blast set off in the big excavation for the new Young building between King and Hotel streets, followed by a shower of coral stones, water and a huge log, started those living near by, and caused considerable damage to surrounding property.

In their usual careless methods for extracting the coral strata by the use of giant powder, the contractor and his gang of men, narrowly escaped killing somebody. As it was, the house of Mrs. Cowles in the yard just back of the great excavation, was rocked to and fro by the force of the explosion, great chunks of coral fell in a shower upon the roof and verandas, and broke a large quantity of dishes in the dining room. Mounted Officer Maitland, who lives in the house, was sitting on the rear porch and rose to his feet when the blast was set off. As he looked toward the high board fence dividing Mrs. Cowles' yard and the excavation he saw a huge log going skyward, splitting into two parts, which descended into the yard not ten feet from where he was standing. One section struck end foremost into a garden plot, and bounding, leaped over a tree about eight feet in height, and fell almost upon the veranda. The other piece fell farther away, end on into the garden, and bounded several feet. Officer Maitland estimates that the log shot fully ninety feet into the air.

A crash of crockery inside the house told him that the dishes had been smashed. This damage, however, was caused by the concussion of the blast. A glass enclosed floral piece, which hung over the door of Maitland's room, fell to the floor, and a pane of glass was smashed by flying coral.

A gang of men came over into the yard to remove the indications of their carelessness, but Officer Maitland ordered them to leave them where they had fallen, and sent Officer McKinnon to the police station for Deputy Sheriff Chillingworth. The latter went to the premises and measured the logs. One of them was 5 feet 11 inches long, 44 inches in diameter through the thickest portion, and 49 inches in circumference. The holes made in the hard earth were each six inches deep. It required the strength of the deputy sheriff to raise one of the sections of wood.

Everywhere on the premises were evidences of the explosion. Coral debris strewn the place in chunks as large as a man's hat, but most of it in small pieces. Mrs. Cowles states that this has occurred quite often, but yesterday's explosion was the most serious. When the construction work began the fence was ruined, and out of fifty hens she kept, but half escaped. The roof of the henhouse has been so much damaged that other fowls got away, and the owner was finally compelled to sell the rest.

Contractor Mallet, who has charge of the blasting, attempted to get the two logs after 1 o'clock, but the officer on guard, placed there at Deputy Chillingworth's orders, told him to keep his hands off. Mallet then admitted to the officer that he had used a stick and a half, but didn't think the amount would do so much damage.

Mallet was arrested about a month ago and fined \$100 in the Circuit Court for his carelessness in letting off blasts. The streets are rarely guarded when the giant powder is exploded, and several persons have narrowly escaped serious injury. If not death, at the hands of the contractor and his men. An over-anxiety on their part to finish the work, and an utter disregard for police regulations, has been the cause of the trouble.

A warrant for Mallet's arrest was issued last night by Marshal Brown.

THE GULF STREAM MYTH.

We still find in some geographical text books the old story that the Gulf Stream, with its genial warmth, makes Norway habitable, keeps the harbor of Hammerfest, within the Arctic Circle, free from ice, and gives an agreeable climate to the whole of northwestern Europe. About ten years ago the Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society said it would "probably take a generation or two to eradicate the old, erroneous notions of text books and popular treatises concerning the Gulf stream." The theory is still taught in schools, found in some physical geographies and referred to by many writers.

Many teachers have not heard, apparently, that since the Porcupine and Challenger expeditions the views of scientific men with regard to the Gulf Stream have undergone a great change. For years there has been practically no dissent from the opinion that, as a distinct traceable current, the Gulf Stream disappears in midocean.

From the time of the Challenger soundings to the present all evidence collected by such experienced hydrographers as Carpenter, Buchanan, Findlay, Thoutlet, Agassiz and others shows that the Gulf Stream as such ceases to exist somewhere east of Newfoundland.

Professor Alexander Agassiz says that 300 miles east of Newfoundland the current of the Gulf Stream is scarcely perceptible. Professor Carpenter and all of the observers of the Challenger expedition reached the conclusion that this current so far loses its special attributes as to be no longer

recognizable east of 30 degrees west longitude. Where it can last be distinctly recognized it has lost most of its swiftness, depth and warmth. Its 2,400 feet of depth have dwindled to 300 feet and it feebly flows due east at a rate that would require 100 days to take it to the European coast. Mr. Thoutlet compares it to a powerful river that is lost in great marshes.

The September number of the Monthly Weather Review, one of the scientific publications of our government, has an interesting article on "The Gulf Stream Myth." It refers to the old theory of the effect of this current upon climate as a remarkable instance of adherence to an erroneous belief. "By itself alone," the article says, "the Gulf Stream has as much effect on the climate of northwestern Europe as the fly in the fable had in carrying the stone coach up the hill." It goes on to say that the mild climate of northwestern Europe is due, not to the Gulf Stream, but to the prevailing eastward and northeastward drift of the air currents which distribute the heat conserved by the whole of the Atlantic Ocean north of latitude 35 degree.

It is well known that the ocean is a moderator of climate; that because great water surfaces do not so rapidly become cold or heated as do land surfaces, the temperature over the ocean is more equable than that over the land; thus the prevailing air drift moving for thousands of miles over the ocean carries the mild and beneficial influences of the North Atlantic over the European islands and the shores east and northeast of them.

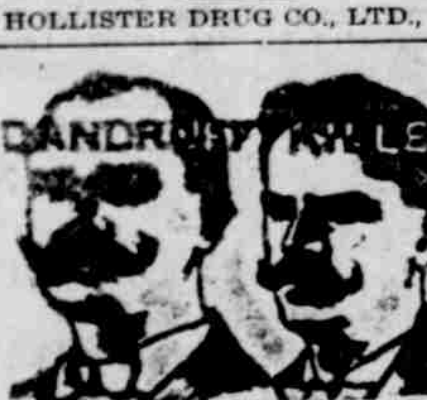
About thirty years ago Captain Silas Bent read a paper before the St. Louis Historical Society to show that it was practically to make northwestern Europe as little desirable for human habitation as Labrador. He argued that if a wide channel were cut through the Isthmus of Panama the equatorial current would be diverted into the Pacific Ocean, there would be no Gulf Stream, and northwestern Europe would become almost uninhabitable. Here is what the Weather Review has to say about this theory: "If, by any possibility, the Gulf Stream were diverted at the Straits of Florida, no one in England would be a whit wiser, for it is the aerial drift that has the gift of mildness in its flow. The diversion-of-the-Gulf-Stream bogey may impress those who have a 'smattering of physiography,' but it has no terrors for him who knows that the Gulf Stream myth has nothing to rest on save the bad science of fifty years ago, and its recrudescence in the present."

TEMPERATURE OF WHALE'S BLOOD.

It is not an easy matter to obtain the temperature of very big living animals, especially when the animals in question are not domesticated, and so far it has been utterly impossible to get the exact temperature of a live whale. But something nearly as good has been done. It is known that the blood of a whale cools very slowly after death, and experiments have been made in Norway which have resulted in taking the temperature soon after death. Mr. Guldberg, who has made the experiments, says that, owing to the very thick coating of fat of the whale, there is in three days but a very slight cooling. Recently he took the temperature of a whale which had been lying dead for three days, and found it to be 34 degrees Centigrade. From whales of different species which had been only just killed he has gotten the following temperatures: Spermaceti whale, 40 degrees; Greenland whale, 38.8 degrees; porpoise, 37.8 degrees; dolphin, 35.6 degrees.

It is worthy of notice that the temperature of 40 degrees found in the spermaceti has not been found in any other mammal, not even when it was alive.

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